

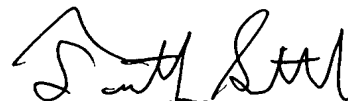
Hertenberger is not available as prior art because Applicants claim priority from Great Britain Application No. 0216488.7 filed on July 16, 2002, which date is prior to the March 5, 2004 filing date of Hertenberger. A claim of priority was filed on January 14, 2005, and a certified copy of the priority document was submitted on that date, in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §119.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claims 23-29, 33, 34, 36 and 40-44 over Hertenberger, and the §103(a) rejection of claim 35 over Hertenberger are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Timothy S. Smith  
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JAO:TSS/eks

Date: October 10, 2007

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